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HIS EXCELLENCY THE EARL OF MACARTNEY,  
*Ambassador Extraordinary from the King of Great Britain to the Emperor of China.*

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AN  
AUTHENTIC ACCOUNT  
OF  
AN EMBASSY

FROM  
THE KING OF GREAT BRITAIN  
TO THE EMPEROR OF CHINA;

INCLUDING  
CURSORY OBSERVATIONS MADE, AND INFORMATION OBTAINED, IN TRAVELLING THROUGH  
THAT ANCIENT EMPIRE, AND A SMALL PART OF CHINESE TARTARY.

TOGETHER WITH A RELATION OF  
THE VOYAGE UNDERTAKEN ON THE OCCASION  
BY HIS MAJESTY'S SHIP THE LION, AND THE SHIP HINDOSTAN, IN THE EAST  
INDIA COMPANY'S SERVICE, TO THE YELLOW SEA, AND GULF OF PEKIN;  
AS WELL AS OF THEIR RETURN TO EUROPE;

WITH  
NOTICES OF THE SEVERAL PLACES WHERE THEY STOPPED IN THEIR WAY OUT AND HOME;  
BEING THE ISLANDS OF MADEIRA, TENERIFFE, AND ST. JAGO; THE PORT OF RIO DE  
JANEIRO IN SOUTH AMERICA; THE ISLANDS OF ST. HELENA, TRISTAN  
D'ACUNHA, AND AMSTERDAM; THE COASTS OF JAVA, AND SUMATRA,  
THE NANKA ISLES, PULO CONDOR, AND COCHIN-CHINA.

TAKEN CHIEFLY FROM THE PAPERS OF  
His Excellency the EARL OF MACARTNEY, Knight of the Bath, His Majesty's  
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the Emperor of China; Sir ERASMUS GOWER,  
Commander of the Expedition, and of other Gentlemen in the several departments of the Embassy.

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By SIR GEORGE STAUNTON, BARONET,  
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Secretary of Embassy to the Emperor of China, and Minister Plenipotentiary in the absence of the Ambassador.

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*English and other Europeans, to and from China.—VI. Statements and plans.—Teas exported from China, in foreign and English ships, from 1772 to 1780, inclusive.—Plan to prevent smuggling tea, submitted to Government in 1783.—Various tables and calculations.—VII. Quantities of teas exported from China, in English and foreign ships each year, from 1776 to 1795, inclusive.—VIII. Goods and bullion exported by English East India Company to China every year, from 1775 to 1795, inclusive.—IX. Number and tonnage of ships arrived in England from China every year, from 1776 to 1795, inclusive.—X. Quantities and prices of teas sold by English East India Company, from Commutation Tax, in September, 1784 to March, 1797, and amount of duties on teas during the same period, with comparison of what the same teas would have cost before the Commutation Act.*

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# EMBASSY TO CHINA.



## CHAPTER I.

PROGRESS OF THE EMBASSY, ALONG THE RIVER PEI-HO, TOWARDS THE CAPITAL OF CHINA. DEPARTURE OF THE SHIPS FROM THE GULF OF PE-CHE-LEE.

HOWEVER difficult or dangerous it had been found for unprotected strangers to penetrate far in China, those who were now entering into it, guarded by the credentials of the sovereign who sent them, and encouraged by him to whom they were proceeding, had nothing to fear for their personal safety. The people of China had not, indeed, the opportunity, by a frequent admixture with foreigners, of becoming familiar with, and reconciled to, their manners and appearance. Yet the high degree of civilization which was known to pervade every rank in that country, and the impending hand of authority restraining those, if any, who might be disposed, otherwise, to be troublesome, afforded perfect security to the present travellers.

Passage up  
the Pei-ho.

The little fleet, in which they were embarked, of English brigs and Chinese junks, sailing together for the first time, reached, on the evening of the fifth of

Passage up  
the Pei-ho.

August, 1793, the town of Ta-coo, within the Pei-ho, or White river, and the first place of any note in this north-east frontier of China. There they found a considerable number of yachts, or large covered barges, and boats of burden, calculated to pass over the shallows of the Pei-ho, and destined to convey the whole of the Embassy as far as that river led towards the capital of the empire.

The Ambassador entered immediately into the yacht prepared for his reception. It bore some resemblance to the passage-boats on the English and Dutch canals; but being intended for a longer and uninterrupted route, was made more spacious, and fitted up with greater conveniences, as well as better decorated. The apartment allotted for his Excellency took up most of the vessel, and consisted of an antichamber, a saloon, a bed-chamber, and a closet. In the saloon was a seat of honour, or square sopha, such as is found in the houses of every chief mandarine, and on which, supported by large cushions, he gives audience to his suitors. A gangway, stretching out about two feet beyond the gunwale of the yacht, served for a communication on each side, from stem to stern, for the domestics and crew, without passing through the rooms. On these gangways the seamen stepped, when it happened to be necessary to force, by setting-poles, the vessel over the shallows, or through thick mud. The crew had a small cabin next



the stern, in a corner of which perfumed matches were constantly kept lighted, and placed round an idol upon a small altar. Boats attended with provisions and cooks, to supply the Ambassador's table, without the necessity of going ashore, or suffering any delay whenever the tide or wind should be favourable for proceeding.

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the Pei-ho.

Sixteen other yachts, most of them of a larger size than that of the Ambassador, as intended each to carry many passengers, were found sufficient for holding the whole of his Excellency's suite. Many of those vessels were eighty feet long, and very capacious; yet they were built of such light wood, and so constructed, as not to sink more than eighteen inches into the water, tho they were lofty above it. The cabins were high and airy. Above them were births for the crew, and beneath the floors were lockers for stowing necessaries.

The chief distinction, as to ornament, between the Ambassador's and the other yachts, consisted in the greater proportion of glass panes which adorned the windows of the former; while the frames of the others were generally filled with a kind of paper, manufactured chiefly in Corea, and in the composition of which an unctuous substance is employed, for rendering the paper more durable when thus exposed to the weather, it being much less easily affected by rain, or any kind of wet, than that which is made in Europe. The general use of glass in the yacht where decoration was principally

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the Pei-ho.

studied, and the substitution of another material for it in most of the others, sufficiently indicated that it was in estimation, but not in plenty.

A considerable guard of Chinese soldiers were destined to attend the Ambassador on shore ; but a few only could be conveniently distributed among the yachts. Whenever an European went ashore from any of them, the presence of a soldier with him announced the immediate protection of the government ; and might have been intended also, as a check upon his conduct.

Beside the yachts for passengers, an equal number of large boats of burden were found necessary for the conveyance of the presents and baggage. The Chinese were not deficient either in expedition, or management, in removing the several articles out of the holds of the sea-junks, in order to tranship them into what might, perhaps, be properly called river-lighters.

No slight care was requisite in the transfer of the packages which contained the presents. This business was entrusted to the superintendence of the same person who had succeeded in transshipping them, without damage, from the Hindostan. Tho the people under his inspection could be employed at one junk only at a time, yet all the packages, in number about six hundred, most of which were heavy and unwieldy, were safely placed on board the lighters in the course of two or three days.

While this operation was going forward, the chief



conductors of the route, Chow-ta-zhin and Van-ta-zhin, waited frequently upon the Ambassador, not only to pay their respects to him, but to take his commands in case any thing were wanting for his perfect accommodation and comfort. They likewise made visits of civility to the principal gentlemen of the Embassy. Inferior mandarines attended all the vessels, for the distribution of provisions, and necessaries for every individual of his Excellency's suite. These persons went from one yacht to another in small boats, called san-pans, which being decked and flat bottomed, could neither sink or be overset.

Passage up  
the Pei-ho.

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A separate table for the gentlemen in each yacht was served up in the manner, and occasionally with all the delicacies, of the country ; and sometimes, also, in an aukward imitation of English cookery. The Chinese method of dressing victuals, consisted chiefly in stewing animal substances, divided into small square morsels, mixed with vegetables, and seasoning them with a variety of savoury sauces, and a combination of opposite tastes. The meat most plentiful was beef and pork. The common fowls of Europe were also common here. Among the most expensive articles, and accounted the greatest delicacies, were the nests of a particular species of swallow mentioned in the former volume of this work, and the fins of sharks, both of which afford rich and fattening juices ; but require, like the turtle, the admixture of strong spices, to be much relished. With a view to gra-

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the Pei-ho.

tify, as was thought, the English appetite, instructions were given by the mandarines, to roast large pieces, such as pigs, turkies, and geese, entire. This is a mode of preparing food which did not appear to have been practised in China ; and was executed very indifferently by the Chinese cooks.

Baking bread was as little common as roasting meat. No proper oven was to be seen, in this part of the country. Instead of bread, boiled rice, or other grain, was generally used. The rice swells considerably in boiling ; and this operation is supposed to answer, as to wholesomeness or facility of digestion, the purpose of the fermentation of the dough in regard to bread. Wheat grows in many provinces in China. That grain, also, called buck-wheat, produces flour, which, when freed entirely from the bran, is perfectly white, and is frequently, as well as other flour, made by the Chinese into the form of cakes. These, by exposure to steam, are reduced to the consistence of dumplins : for this purpose, the cakes are arranged upon stages of lattice work, fixed in the inside of a wooden frame, and closed on every part except the bottom. The frame, with its contents, is placed over a vessel of boiling water, the steam of which ascends through the lattice work ; but is sufficient only to surround the cakes with a thin soft crust. Such as are afterwards sliced and toasted become better substitutes for hard baked bread. Some are rendered more palatable by the admixture of aromatic seeds.



To each yacht were sent jars of a yellow vinous liquor, and also of a distilled spirit. The management of the latter seemed to be understood better than that of the former; for the wine was generally muddy, indifferent in taste, and soon grew sour. The spirit was strong and clear, and seldom partook of any empyreumatic odour. In the northern provinces it was generally distilled from millet, as in the southern, from rice. The strength of some of it was, upon trial, ascertained to be above the common proof for ardent spirits. It is called by the Chinese hot wine, *show-choo*. Regular supplies also came of fruits, such as plums, pears, apples, grapes, apricots, and oranges. Peaches were presented as coming from Peking, in the neighbourhood of which, probably a greater attention is paid to the culture of that fruit than in the provinces. Green and bohea tea were supplied also in abundance; the former chiefly from the Kiang-nan, and the latter from the Fo-chien provinces, both some degrees to the southward of the Pei-ho. The tea, however, was often too fresh for an English palate; and it was not unusual to hear a wish expressed for *London tea*. The province of Fo-chien furnished also sugar-candy and brown sugar; but none in loaf. The Cochin-chinese sugar crystallized in cakes, tho excellent and very cheap, seemed not to have been imported, or much used in this part of China.

Passage up  
the Pei-ho.

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Ample allowance was made of every necessary article

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the Pei-ho.

to the gentlemen, and likewise to the artificers, soldiers, and domestics in the train of the Ambassador. No slight magnificence was displayed, and no expence seemed to be spared in the treatment of the Embassy, either as to the number of mandarines who were appointed to accompany it, and whose salaries were increased upon this particular service; the crowd of inferior Chinese who were engaged to attend upon the occasion; the many vessels employed in conveying the whole; the parade of reception wherever the yachts stopped; and the occasional shows and decorations as they passed along; the cost of all which, together with that of the supplies of every kind which could be wanted, the Emperor chose, should be entirely borne by himself; upon this grand idea, that the whole empire was as his private property and dwelling, in which it would be a failure of hospitality to suffer a visitor, for as such an Ambassador is always considered by the Chinese, to be at the least charge for himself or for his train, while he continued there. His Imperial Majesty's orders on this subject were very strictly obeyed. A gentleman who accompanied the Ambassador, and who wished to purchase some trifling articles of dress, was immediately supplied; but the mandarine who had been employed to buy them, declared he dared not accept the price from him for whose use they were destined, but charged the same to the Emperor's account. The Imperial mandates, on all occasions, seem to be received with



a degree of awe, and to be executed with a punctuality which imply that they are seldom known to be infringed without a punishment adequate to the offence. The authority of government is delegated, on particular occasions, to superior mandarines ; an instance of which occurred in the dismissal of a subordinate officer attendant upon the Embassy, by the chief conductors of it, for no very violent transgression.

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the Pei-ho.

During the Ambassador's stay before Ta-coo, there was also an interchange of visits between him and the Viceroy of the province, who, by the Emperor's order, came from Pao-ting-foo, his usual place of residence, distant an hundred miles, to compliment his Excellency on his entrance into the Chinese dominions, and to issue such orders, in regard to him, as the occasion might require. He was the person of the highest rank whom yet the Ambassador had an opportunity of seeing in China ; and was certainly a man of the most polished manners. He was tottering with age ; but not less dignified than he was venerable. In his reception of the Ambassador, he behaved with refined and attentive politeness ; but without the constraint of those distant forms, or particular ceremonies, which are sometimes thought proper to take place in China between persons of unequal rank, or to be substituted where sentiment or education is supposed to be deficient. The punctilios and tiresome formalities, for example, described in some

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the Pêi-ho.

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relations of Chinese customs, when tea is served upon the arrival of a visitor, were not observed, or were slightly passed over on the present meeting; in which there was nothing particular in this respect to notice, unless it may be mentioned, that the tea was brought in cups with covers upon oblong saucers, and infused in each cup separately, the leaves remaining at the bottom of the cup; and that the simple infusion of this herb was thought by the host, if not by the guests, preferable to its mixture with cream and sugar.

The Viceroy had taken up his abode at the principal temple of Ta-coo, consecrated to the god of the sea, the proximity of which occasioned, no doubt, frequent invocations to that deity, under the appellation of *Toong-hai-vaung*, or king of the eastern sea. There were several figures of him in different brilliant edifices of porcelain, within one inclosure. The annexed engraving is one representation of this Chinese Neptune; and is emblematic of the element over which he is considered as presiding. He sits upon the waves with firmness, ease, and dignity; and tho he brandishes no trident, *to call up monsters from the vasty deep*, yet he seems to be conscious of security by the possession of a magnet in one hand, while the dolphin, which he holds in the other, denotes his power over the inhabitants of the ocean. His beard flowing in all directions, and his agitated locks seemed intended for a personification of that troubled element.



The circumstance of the divinity's reliance upon a magnet, is a sufficient indication how intimately the knowledge of its properties has been incorporated with the mythological doctrines of the Chinese; as well as at what an early period that knowledge must have been applied to navigation. They who suppose, indeed, from various allusions in ancient authors, as well as from a consideration of the facility with which pieces of iron placed in particular positions acquire magnetic qualities, that these were known in Europe also in very remote

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the Pei-ho.

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ages, conjecture that the trident itself in the hand of Neptune is less a magic wand, than an emblem of that unerring guidance which the magnet is capable of supplying.

Not far from the *Hai-chin-miao*, or temple of the sea god, was the hall of audience of Ta-coo. It was situated in the midst of a spacious court. A broad flight of steps led to a building, of an hexagon form, with a roof supported by pillars, the diameter of which bore a greater proportion to the length of the shafts, than in any order of Grecian architecture. These pillars were of varnished wood, which material might require more thickness than those of stone; as pillars of iron, no doubt, would less than either. For the natural rules and proportions in this science, must necessarily depend on the substance to be employed, as well as on the effect they are meant to produce upon the eye. The hexagon was open on all sides: a circumstance which indicated the mildness of the climate, and was not ill calculated to impress the mind with the pleasing, tho perhaps erroneous idea, that justice there was free and accessible to all. On benches covered with red cotton cloth and satin cushions, sat six magistrates, five, probably, as assessors to the chief, and who might serve the purpose of a check on the caprice or passions of a single judge. The attendants and spectators were very numerous.



Soon after the Ambassador returned to his yacht, the Viceroy sent there a sumptuous repast for him, and three other dinners, each consisting of twenty-four dishes, to the three gentlemen who had accompanied his Excellency on the visit. Why the Viceroy preferred this method of showing civility to his visitors, to that of retaining them to partake of a banquet with him that day, or of inviting them for the next, could be explained by nothing known in Chinese manners or opinions, except what might relate to the rank of the gentlemen accompanying the Ambassador. It did not proceed, as it might in India, from any religious scruple, against eating with profane foreigners. More, indeed, than four persons seldom sit at the same table in China; but a banquet is frequently served upon several tables in the same apartment. It is possible that some circumstance of delicacy towards the Ambassador, which was not explained, or of doubt concerning English customs, might have induced the Viceroy to adopt this particular mode of hospitality, which, indeed, the tables supplied at the Emperor's charge had rendered altogether superfluous.

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the Pei ho.

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During the Ambassador's stay before Ta-coo he was visited by the principal mandarines of the neighbourhood, in whom, as in other Chinese of rank, fewer national peculiarities or partialities were apparent, than in the lower classes of life. The exercised mind is, certainly, less the child of example, or the creature of climate and

Passage up  
the Pei-ho.

government than that in which nothing intervenes to counteract the influence of those powerful causes. That the people are justly said to be whatever they are made, is sufficiently instanced in the effect produced upon the common Chinese by the continual apprehension, in which they are held, of the heavy hand of power. When free from that restraint, they are of a cheerful and confident disposition ; but they are extremely timid in the presence of their magistrates. This effect was conspicuous in the case of the young man who has been already mentioned to have come purposely in the Endeavour brig from Canton, to offer himself to serve as one of the interpreters of the Embassy. He was sometimes employed to interpret to the mandarines ; but he stood in such excessive awe before them, that he seldom acquitted himself well ; and never without turning the becoming style of conversation among equals, which he had to render from an European language, into the most abject address that the Chinese idiom admitted from persons of the lowest degree. Not satisfied, however, with taking that sort of precaution for his security, he considered it still as dangerous for him to serve foreigners on any terms, and sacrificing, to his new fears, the inclination he had to see, by means of the office he had undertaken, the capital, and the sovereign, of his country, as well as his desire of emolument in fulfilling the duties of his employment, he determined to return immediately



to Canton in the vessel which had brought him from thence.

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the Pei-ho.

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Every arrangement being completed for the Embassy's proceeding up the river, and his Excellency's orders having been taken upon the subject, the signal was made for sailing on the morning of the ninth of August. To the vessels already mentioned, were added such others as were to carry the mandarines of various ranks, and other Chinese appointed to attend the Embassy, in number, at least, equal to that of the Europeans who composed it. No guns are fired in China by way of signal ; but circular rimmed plates of copper, mixed with tin, or zinc, to render it more sonorous, are struck with wooden mallets, and emit a noise almost deafening to those who are near it, and which is heard to a considerable distance. This instrument, which the Chinese call *loo*, and the Europeans, in China, *gong*, from the name it bears in other parts of the East, is generally used upon the water. In like manner two pieces of wood struck against each other, and producing a sound like that of a great rattle, serve ashore to give notice from authority, on most occasions, especially among the troops. Drums do not seem to be used in the army ; but they form a part of religious music in the temples.

Almost every vessel connected with the Embassy had on board both Europeans and Chinese. From a mixture of people whose habits, wants, and languages, were so

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new to each other, much confusion might be expected to arise. It was avoided by caution and method. The mandarines were, on every occasion, attentive to the accommodation of the passengers. Even the Chinese soldiers and sailors displayed a gentleness of deportment, and a willingness to oblige, distinguishable from the mere execution of a duty; and which showed that the present strangers, at least, were not unwelcome. These strangers were, indeed, announced as coming from afar to pay a compliment to their sovereign; and the lowest of the Chinese were not so depressed as to be insensible of some national gratification on that account.

The approach of the Embassy was an event of which the report spread rapidly among the neighbouring towns and villages. Several of these were visible from the barges upon the river. Crowds of men were assembled on the banks, some of whom waited a considerable time to see the procession pass, while the females, as shy as they were curious, looked through gates, or peeped over walls, to enjoy the sight. A few, indeed, of the ancient dames almost dipped their little feet into the river, in order to get a nearer peep; but the younger part of the sex generally kept in the back ground. The strangers, on their part, were continually amused and gratified with a succession of new objects. The face of the country, the appearance of the people, presented, in almost every instance, something different from what offers to



the view elsewhere. And a general sentiment prevailed, that it was well worth while to have travelled to such a distance to behold a country which promised to be interesting in every respect.

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the Pei-ho.

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The direct progress of the Embassy upon the Pei-ho was very slow ; the course of that river being remarkably serpentine. The route was therefore considerably lengthened ; and the wind, which upon one stretch was favourable, became adverse upon the other. All rivers or streams of water, no doubt, affect straight lines from their sources to the sea, deflecting only where obstacles occur which their impulse is not able to surmount. If those obstacles consist of rocks or elevated compact grounds, no subsequent accidents are likely to change the bed once formed ; but if the waters flow through a country nearly level, and between banks of so loose a mold as to be incapable of resisting a partial swell, or rapid motion, of the river, it will probably, on such occasions, form new and circuitous channels for itself. It did so in the present instance ; and to a degree of inconvenience, which appears to have induced the superintending government to take pains for confining it within its usual bounds ; and, accordingly, extraordinary quantities of earth have been placed along its sides, in order immediately to fill up any breach which from time to time might be made in them. There are mounds of this kind, in the form of truncated wedges, all along the banks of

Passage up  
the Pei-ho.

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the Pei-ho, which may also have partly been composed of mud collected from the river's bed. At present the banks of the river are higher than the adjacent plains. Those plains extend as far as the eye could reach; and the windings of the river through them made the masts of the vessels, sailing on it, appear throughout the country, as if moving over the fields in every direction, while the water lay concealed.

The fields exhibited a high state of cultivation, and were generally covered with the *holcus sorghum* or tallest of the vegetables producing esculent grain, commonly called Barbadoes millet. It grows to ten or twelve feet high; and the lowest calculation of its increase was an hundred fold.

In the villages near the river during the first day's journey, the houses had the appearance of being built of mud, like those described near the mouth of the Pei-ho; but, on a closer inspection, the walls were found to be made of bricks ill-burnt, or baked in the sun; which afterwards, as well as the tiled roofs, were plastered over with a muddy-coloured substance, unmixed with lime. There is, indeed, no lime, unless from sea shells, to be had for a very considerable distance from the river, or stone of any kind. A pebble is here a rarity.

Near some of the towns and villages were pyramids about fifteen feet high, but of different dimensions as to length and thickness. They consisted of bags of salt heaped together in that form, as peat is preserved in



some parts of Europe. These bags were covered merely with common matting; which was, however, found sufficient shelter against the dissolution of their contents by rain. The showers which fell in this part of the country were indeed slight, and seldom happened. The fields nevertheless did not appear scorched in the month of August. Few clouds overhung the sky. The degrees of heat felt in the shade each noon are marked upon the two sheets, No. 9 and 10, containing the route through China. No indication of a damp atmosphere was observed; but, in the evenings, a dew was perceptible upon the ground approaching to the river.

Passage up  
the Pei-ho:

As soon as night came on, the banks were illuminated with variegated lights, from lanterns whose transparent sides were made of different coloured paper, some white, some stained with blue, and others red. The different numbers of lanterns hoisted on the masts' heads of the various vessels in the river, denoted the ranks of the passengers they held; all which, together with the lights from the cabins of the junks, reflecting from the water, produced a moving and party-coloured illumination: a species of magnificence much affected by the Chinese. The night was nearly as noisy as the day, to which contributed not a little the shrill sounds emitted from the loo, struck upon every occasion of conveying signals. The threatening hum,

Passage up  
the Pei-ho.

and frequent sting of musquitoes, were likewise particularly troublesome in the night.

In the course of travelling the next day, a considerable inclosure was, for the first time, perceived, resembling a gentleman's park in England. It was the residence of the *Ta-whang*, or chief of the district. His dwelling was distinguished by treble gates, and by two poles erected near them, each forty feet high, destined to bear ensigns of dignity, and, in the night, to carry lanterns for use and ornament. Within the inclosures were seen several buildings, a variety of trees, several sheep and horses. Hitherto very few cattle of any kind had been, any where, observed. Tho the lands lay low, and fit to be converted into meadow, scarcely any were found in that state; or any lying fallow.

On one side of the river was a large grove of high and wide spreading pines; near and amongst which were discovered several monuments of stone, erected to the memory of persons buried underneath. No temple was in the neighbourhood of this cemetery. However a view of the repositories of the dead may increase the disposition to seriousness and piety in buildings consecrated to public worship; considerations of health towards the living, may have been thought sufficient in China to keep those places entirely separate.

The opposite bank of the river, for a considerable way, was crowded with pyramids or stacks of salt, of the



height of those already mentioned. The quantity of that article necessary to fill such heaps appeared to be so enormous, that Mr. Barrow was induced to ascertain it by some sort of calculation. “ The number of entire “ stacks was two hundred and twenty-two, besides several others that were incomplete. A transverse section of each stack was found to contain seventy bags. “ None of those stacks were less in length than two hundred feet. Some extended to six hundred. Supposing “ the mean or average length of those stacks to be four hundred feet, of which each bag occupied a space of “ two feet; there would then be, in each stack, two hundred sections, or fourteen thousand bags, and in “ the two hundred and twenty-two stacks, upwards of “ three million bags of salt. Every bag contained about “ two hundred pounds weight of salt; and, consequently, altogether six hundred millions of pounds in “ weight of that article.”

Passage up  
the Pei-ho.

When in the former government of France, several of its provinces were subjected to the gabelle or duty upon salt, a calculation was carefully made of the average consumption of that article. It was then deemed to be considerably under twenty pounds weight in the course of the year, for each individual, including the several uses to which that article was applied. But upon the supposition of the entire quantity of twenty pounds being annually consumed by every Chinese, the present collec-

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the Pei-ho.

tion of that commodity was sufficient for thirty millions of people for a year, without taking into the account the stacks then opened for consumption, and the lesser accumulations before observed along the banks of the river.

This article is a source of considerable revenue to the crown in China. The amount of the duties upon it in the province of Pe-che-lee, is stated to be inferior to what is collected in various other parts of the empire. In several districts of that province, particularly in the neighbourhood of the capital, instead of marine salt, a coarse or unpurified nitre is said to be so abundant, as to be often substituted for it by the people, as in some of the interior parts of India, and may there deserve more the name of common salt than that which the sea produces.

Most of the marine salt imported into the Pei-ho, is brought from the sea coasts of the two southern provinces of Fo-chien and Quan-tung, where it is prepared from sea water. Large fields being made perfectly smooth and flat, with margins elevated about six inches, sea water is let in upon a clayey surface, either through sluices, or pumped up at high water by chain-pumps. The water is suffered to lie on those fields to the depth of two or three inches. The heat of the sun in the summer season is sufficiently strong to evaporate the water. The evaporation carried on slowly and uniformly, leaves behind large cubic crystals, and forms that species



usually known by the name of Bay-salt in England. There are similar works near the mouth of the Pei-ho river, but to no considerable extent. Its more northern situation is certainly not so favourable for the process by solar heat. Artificial heat is found necessary to complete the process in England, and even in some of the southern parts of France. The salt brought from Quan-tung and Fo-chien into the Pei-ho, is sufficient to load annually near two thousand vessels of two hundred tons burden each. When one article alone employs so many junks, it is easy to account for the multitude of them seen upon that river. And, indeed, neither the number of towns and villages within view of the Pei-ho, nor of the inhabitants flocking towards it, surprised the travellers so much as that of the junks which were every instant overtaken, or met sailing upon the river, or passed at anchor in creeks along its banks.

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the Pei-ho.

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The pyramids above described were within sight of the great port called *Tien-sing*, the literal signification of which Chinese name is, heavenly spot: an appellation which it claims as situated in a genial climate, a fertile soil, a dry air, and a serene sky. It is the general emporium for the northern provinces of China, and is built at the confluence of two rivers, from which it rises in a gentle slope. The palace of the governor stands on a projecting point, from whence it commands the prospect of a broad bason, or expanse of water, produced

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the Pei-ho.

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by the union of the rivers, and which is almost covered with vessels of different sizes. Many of them never cross the shallow bar at the mouth of the Pei-ho; but are employed in the internal trade carried on by the means of canals as well as great rivers throughout the empire.

Of the rivers uniting at Tien-sing, one, on which the Embassy was to proceed, bore the same name of Pei-ho, that was continued to both when joined. The other was called *Yun-leang-ho*, or grain-bearing river, from the quantities of wheat conveyed upon it from the province of Shen-see, and sent up by the Pei-ho to the neighbourhood of Peking. Even at this early stage of the present travellers' route through China, they found that the Chinese names of whatever had hitherto occurred to them in the country, were not mere arbitrary unmeaning sounds, or names derived from a foreign origin, but had a signification in the language which served to explain the nature or qualities of what was so expressed: a circumstance which leads to a presumption, that this country had, from the remotest periods, been possessed always by the same race, retaining through all ages the same original idiom, without any material admixture with the people or the language of other regions.

Across the rivers, where united at Tien-sing, was a bridge of boats for the convenience of the people, but which occasionally separated to let vessels pass between



them. Along the quays were some temples, and other handsome edifices, but the rest consisted chiefly of shops for the retail of goods, and also warehouses, together with yards and magazines for maritime stores. The private houses presented little more than dead walls in front, the light only coming to them from interior courts. The spectators were mostly in the streets, and upon the vessels, literally covering the water opposite the city. Few females were mixed with those spectators. The crowds, however, were immense, not only from the highest ground to the water's edge ; but hundreds were actually standing in the water, in order to approach nearer to the spectacle of the vessels which conveyed the strangers. As these could not be incommoded by the crowd, nothing like soldiers or constables interfered with the movements of the people. Yet in all the ardour of curiosity, the people themselves preserved a great degree of decency and regularity in their demeanour. Not the least dispute seemed to take place among them ; and, from a sense of mutual accommodation, none of the common Chinese, who usually wear straw hats, kept on theirs, while the procession of the Embassy was passing, lest they should obstruct the view of the persons behind them, tho their bare heads were thus exposed to a scorching sun. The gradual rise on every side from the water to the furthest extremity of the city, rendered the whole one great amphitheatre. It was literally lined with heads,

Passage up  
the Pei-ho.

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the Pei-ho.

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one behind and a little above the other. Every face was seen ; and the number appeared to surpass any former multitude observed in the country.

The fleet which conveyed the Embassy stopped nearly in the center of the city, and opposite to a pavilion where the Viceroy waited for the Ambassador. The former had come over land from Ta-coo by a shorter route than was described by the windings of the river. The Ambassador disembarked with all the gentlemen of the Embassy, and attended with his whole train of servants, musicians, and guards. He was received on shore by the Viceroy and the Legate mentioned in the last pages of the former volume. A body of Chinese troops was drawn up behind them, according to the following order of parade in front, as particularly noticed by Captain Parish.

Three military mandarines, or principal officers.

A tent, with a band of music outside the tent.

Three long trumpets.

A triumphal arch.

Four large green standards, with five small ones between each, and bowmen between each small colour.

Six large red standards with matchlock men, and five small colours between each standard.

Two large green standards, with swordsmen between each.

Music tent.

Triumphal arch.



The weather being very warm, several of the troops carried fans together with their military arms. Fans are worn in China equally by both sexes, and by all ranks; and this use of them at a military parade, will appear less surprising to those who have observed sometimes officers in other parts of the East exercising their battalions with umbrellas over their heads.

Passage up  
the Pei-ho.

The Viceroy conducted the Ambassador with the principal gentlemen into the pavilion, at the upper end of which was a darkened recess, or sanctuary, where the majesty of the Emperor was supposed to be constantly residing; and to that majesty it was signified that a respectful obeisance should be paid; which, however singular, was accordingly performed by a profound inclination of the body. No such ceremony had taken place when the Viceroy alone received the Ambassador at Ta-coo. His refined manners would not probably allow him to obtrude suddenly a proposal for the acknowledgment of this attribute of ubiquity upon a stranger who might not be accustomed to recognize such a quality in any mortal; but the presence of the Legate, of a disposition apparently opposite to his own, in all likelihood made it necessary even for the dignified and venerable Viceroy not to omit, in the company of such an emissary from the court, any of the usual acts of unlimited respect to the exalted sovereign of the empire.

Tea, sweetmeats, and other refreshments being served,

Passage up  
the Pei-ho.

and some mutual civilities having passed, it was announced by the Legate to the Ambassador, that the Emperor was at his country residence at Zhe-hol, in Tartary, where he intended to celebrate the anniversary of his birthday, being on the thirteenth of the eighth moon, answering to the seventeenth of September; and that he desired to receive the Embassy there. Beside the disposition of the Ambassador to comply with any wishes of the Emperor, it was particularly grateful to him, that he was to pass into Tartary, as on the frontier he should have an opportunity of seeing the great wall of China; of which the celebrated Doctor Johnson, in the enthusiasm of curiosity, is asserted to have said, that it might be a subject of some boast for the grandson of him who saw it.

The remainder of the Legate's conversation was less satisfactory. He said that the Embassy, after reaching Tong-shoo by water, within twelve miles of Peking, should proceed by land directly for Zhe-hol, together with all the presents. Many of these were not likely to suffer by the carriage in such a journey; but it was obviously impossible to convey in safety, over the mountains and rugged roads of Tartary, some of the most valuable and curious, which consisted of delicate machinery, or were partly composed of brittle materials. The object of exhibiting all the presents at once before his Imperial Majesty, immediately upon their arrival at



Zhe-hol, could not, at any rate, be attained, because some of the complicated machines had necessarily been taken to pieces, in order to be packed before they were embarked; and it would take some time to put them again together. It was desirable, beside, to fix them at once in the Emperor's chief place of residence, from whence, after being adjusted by the proper artists, under the inspection of Doctor Dinwiddie and Mr. Barrow, they should not afterwards be removed. Such monuments of European ingenuity and knowledge merited to be preserved in their perfect state. But the Legate was averse to any measure tending to the least delay in the neighbourhood of the capital, which it seemed to have been his intention that no person belonging to the Embassy should visit. He had not been in the habit of forming any just notions, or any adequate estimation of the nice instruments of science; and nothing but the interposition of the Viceroy saved them from the destruction to which the determination of the Legate had devoted them. It was at length determined, that they should be left at a palace near Peking, usually destined for the reception of such objects.

Passage up  
the Pei-ho.

In the course of this discussion, the Legate betrayed a perverse temper under an exterior of much calmness. His irregular mind seemed tinctured with a jealousy of all foreigners, and, at the same time, with an utter contempt for them. But the urbanity and graciousness of the

Passage up  
the Pei-ho.

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Viceroy compensated for the failure of the Legate ; and the Ambassador had only to lament, that the great age and different avocations of the former had not allowed of his being appointed to the office connected with the Embassy, which had been conferred upon the latter.

Soon after the Ambassador, and the gentlemen of his suite, had returned to their respective yachts, a magnificent repast, with wine, fruit, and sweetmeats, was sent to them on the part of the Viceroy, as at Ta-coo, together with presents of tea, silk, and muslins. Tho of no considerable value, those presents were accompanied with such obliging expressions and compliments, that they were received in the manner which was thought would be most satisfactory to the donor. He likewise sent a plentiful dinner and presents to the soldiers, musicians, artificers, and servants, of the Embassy.

Among other instances of his attention to the Ambassador, a temporary theatre was erected opposite to his Excellency's yacht. The outside was adorned with a variety of brilliant and lively colours, by the proper distribution of which, and sometimes by their contrast, it is the particular object of an art among the Chinese to produce a gay and pleasing effect. The inside of the theatre was managed, in regard to decorations, with equal success ; and the company of actors successively exhibited, during the whole day, several different pantomimes and historical dramas. The performers were



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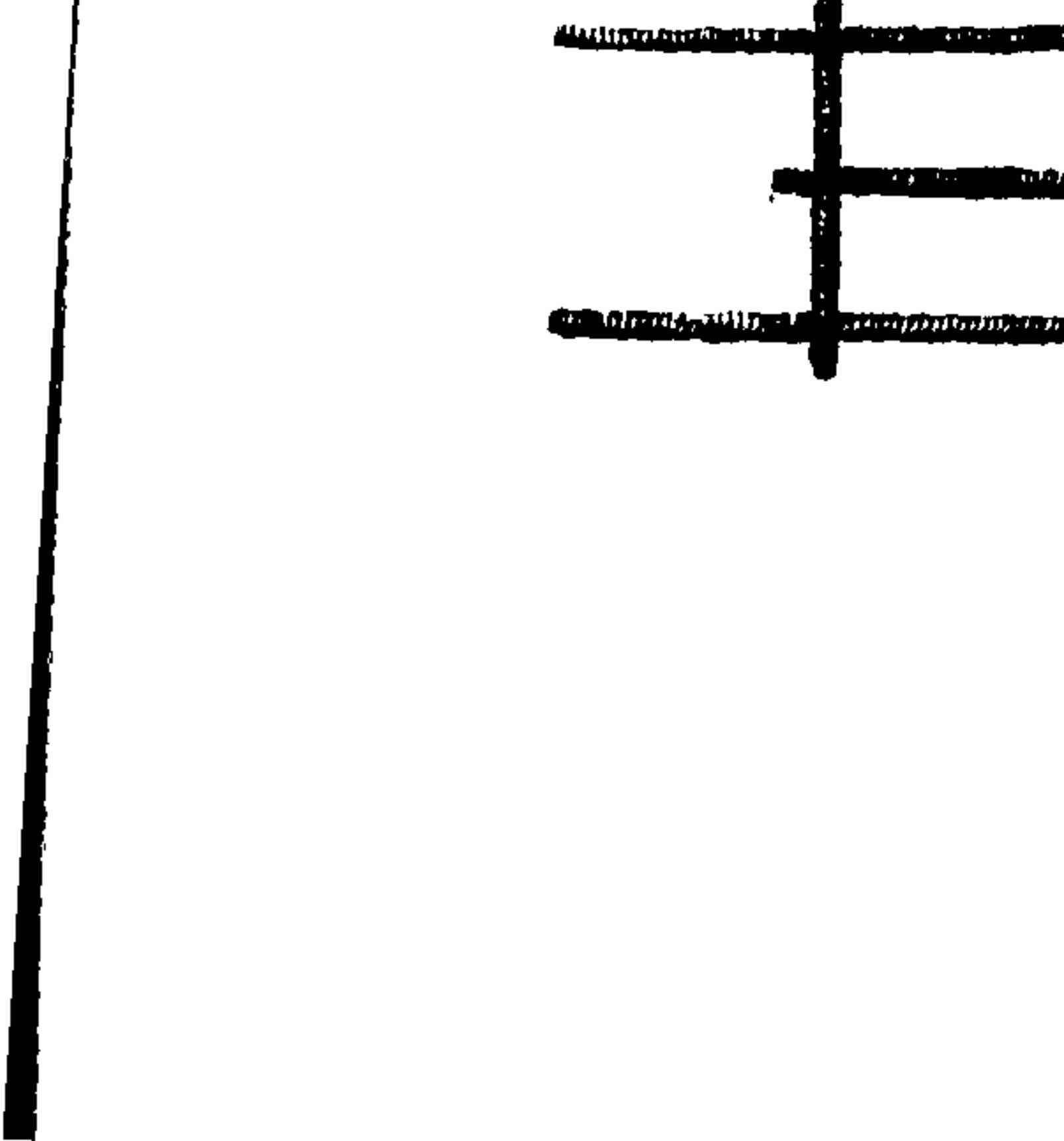
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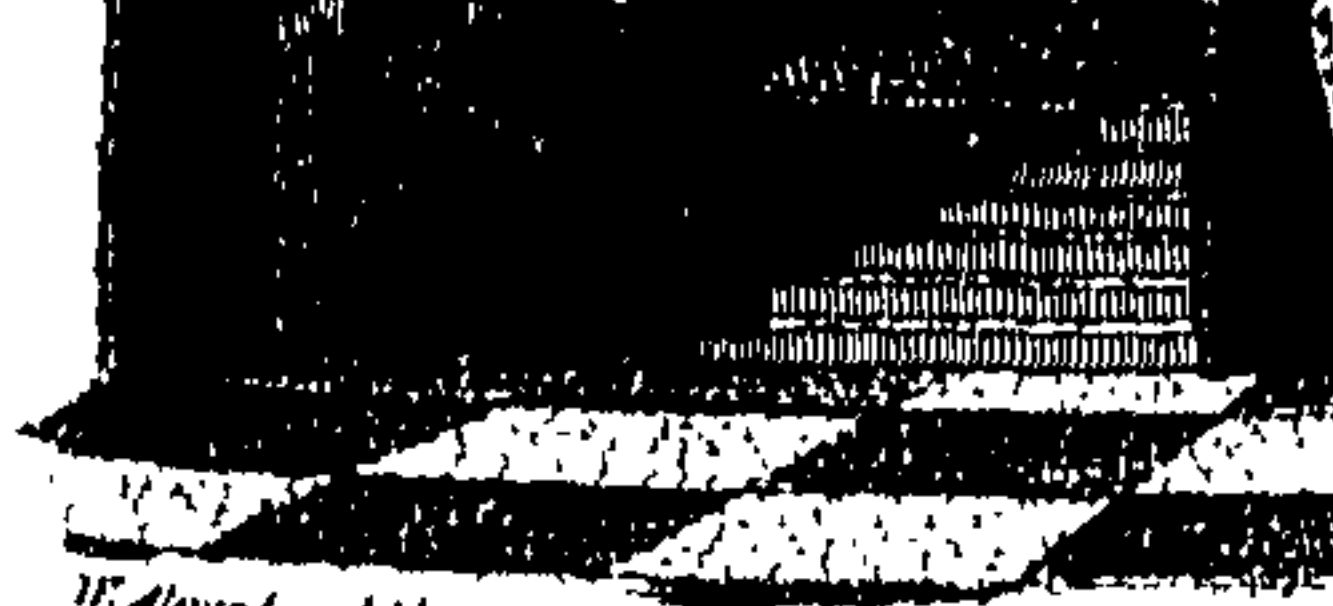
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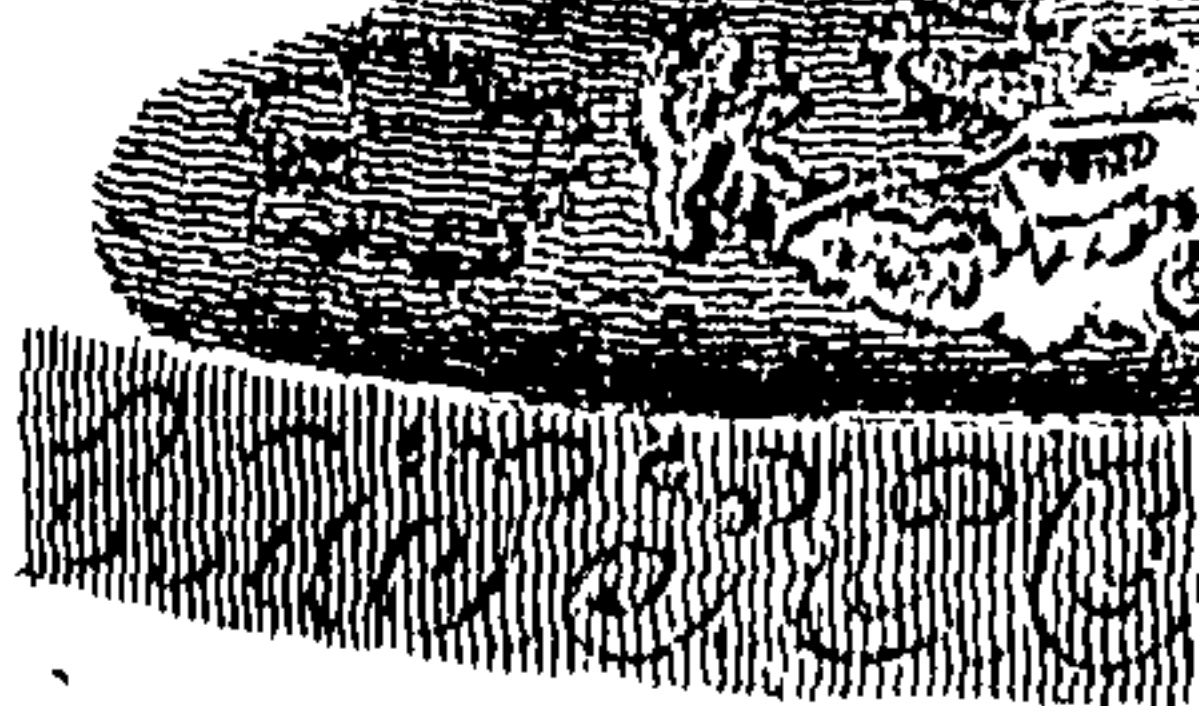
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J. J. Harrison, Esq.

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- “ advantage, they are
- “ principles of persp
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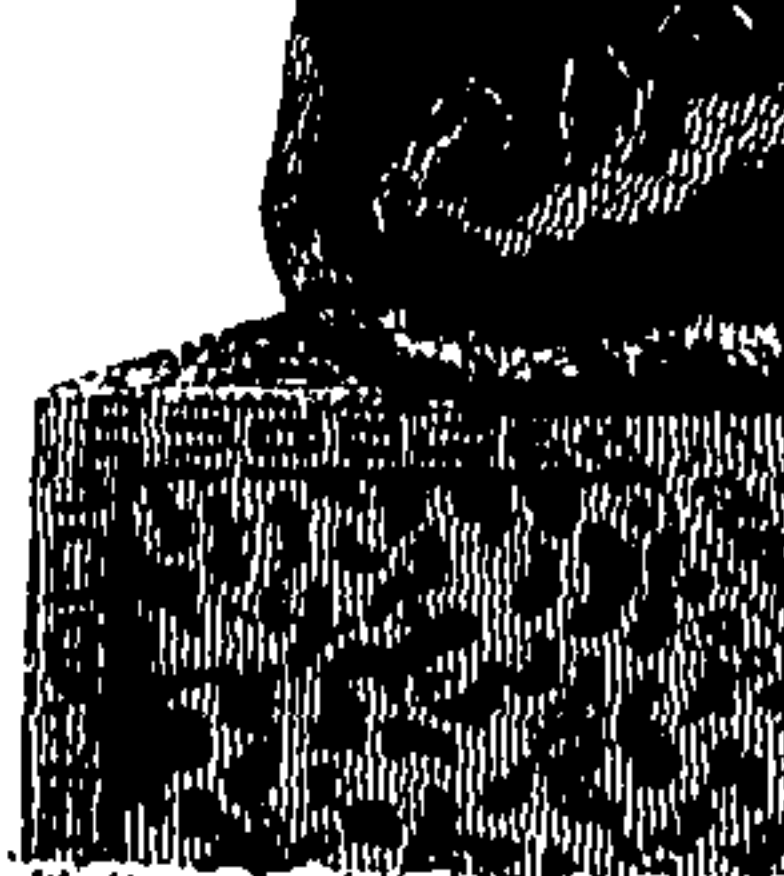
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*W. Hammer delin.*

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“ his head to view th  
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**VOL. II.**



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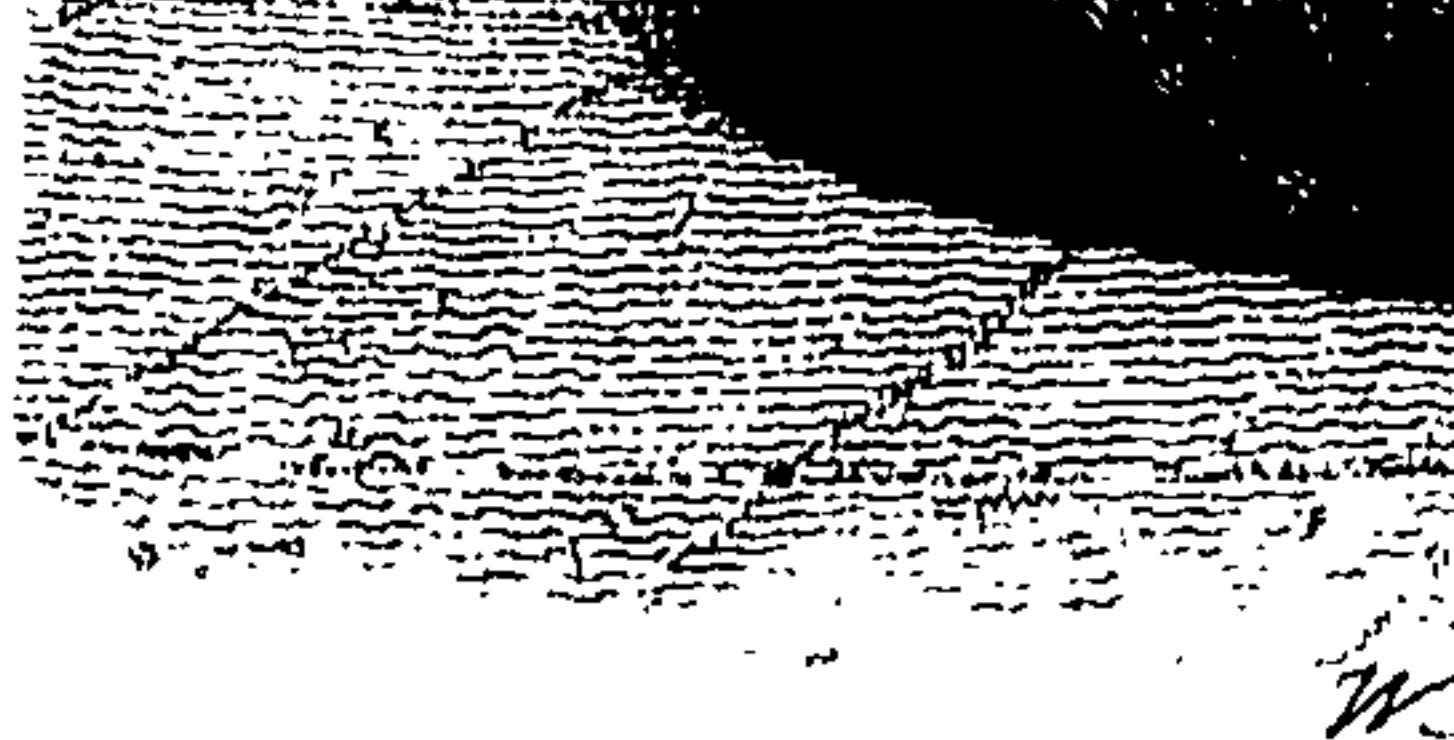
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tary stores. The method  
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the ground to the north  
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every side, into one great

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The operation is performed by water; the arms, which by striking them in the same man



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*W. Alexander delin.*

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the feathers of the bird.



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sacrifices were prepared

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The wind was fair  
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“ The swiftness, indeed  
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Imperial Majesty assured  
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and barges in every other  
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larly the lien-wha, or

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and some

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have a current; and then  
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down about twenty feet  
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VOL. II.

The island  
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of feldspath ; and some  
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villages.

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The canal continued

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of praise, as well as by  
register, called the Book  
of recording every strik  
duct ; and, in the enume

VOL. II.

Dassador,  
ninth of I

In the  
delineated  
the rivers

*Amaranthus caudatus.*

————— *tricolor.*

*Morus papyrifera.*

————— *another spec.*



Solanum  
Convolv  
Cistus.  
Rubus co  
Arundo p

*Pteris serrulata*, Hort. K.

— *semi-pinnata*.

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exports grow  
southern p  
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people, not assembled  
any other public occas  
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VOL. II.

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- “ distinct arches towa
- “ of silk threads laid
- “ strength of the bo

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length. They sailed with  
very little water. One  
the Viceroy, was at fi

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by boiling the branch  
upon the surface of w  
form of an oil; or ad  
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They see  
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The river  
the barges c

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as grapes are pressed

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A reservoir is sunk in  
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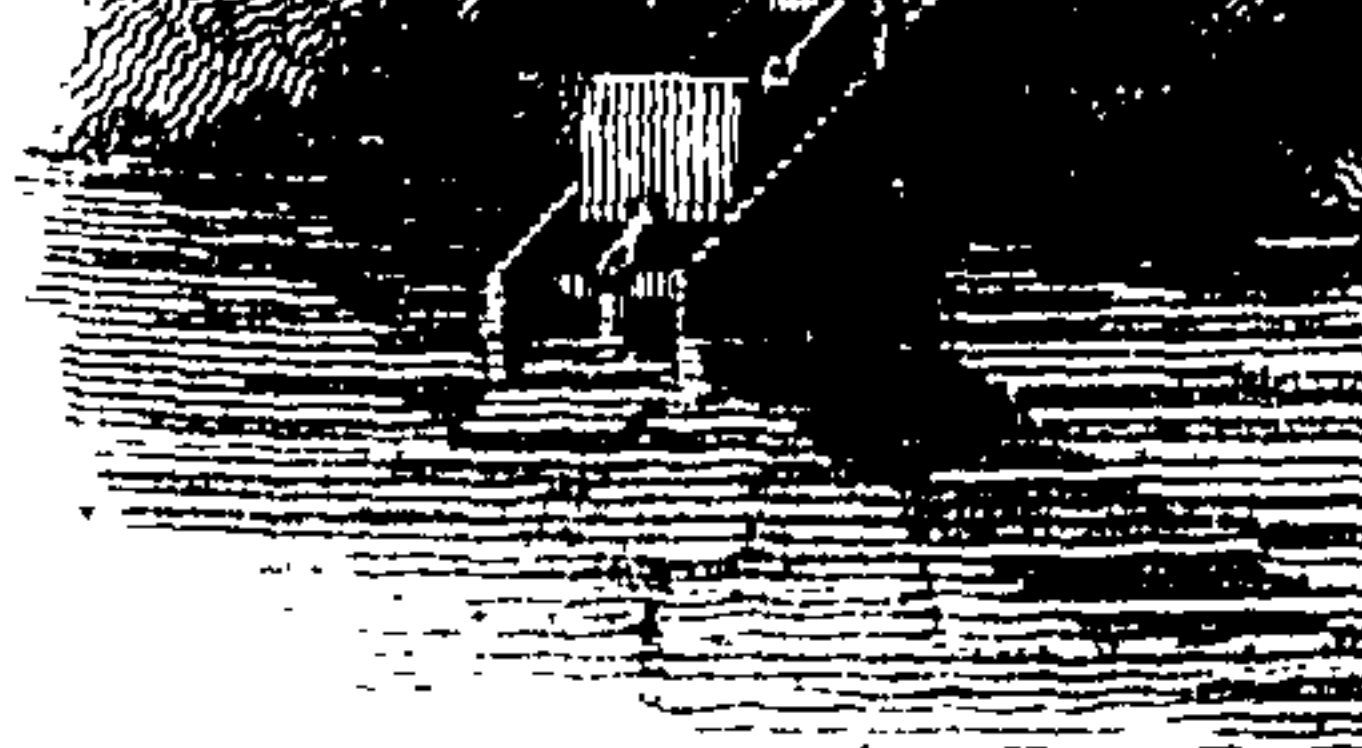
ture and humidity.

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times substituted with  
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or floating upon the su



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surface, culture, and

Trades

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Conva

Daphn



**Lycium japonicum.**  
—— foetidum.

**Capsicum.**

**Dysoda fascicularis.**

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above temptation. T  
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VOL. II.

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VOL. II.

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VOL. II.

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VOL. II.

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Canton -	21,000,000	79,456
Quang-see	10,000,000	78,250
Yu-nan -	8,000,000	107,969
Koei-cheou	9,000,000	64,554
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	333,000,000	1,297,999

VOL. II.

A few years ago, the value exceeded £. 100,000 per annum in silver. Since the Commutation point. There were imported £. 1,000,000, in lead, tin, &c. the following year, was £. 250,000.

The value of exports from Canton, in merchandize, and will have increased.

The legal trade from the East Indies, besides opium, which is clandestine, consisted of cotton, tin, pepper, &c.

The exports from Canton to the East Indies is paid in cash. The articles exported are, alum, porcelain, camphor, &c.

The total imports from the East Indies upwards of £. 600,000. The value of the



*A Plan to prevent Smuggling Tea*  
*laying a small Tax on such Tea*  
*would be greatly benefited, as b*

Total of *real Tea* consumed  
would employ 38 *ships* and 456  
seamen.

Besides sol

The family will

A common genteel family  
Dedu

The family will

A genteel family -  
Dedu

The family will

Ditto ditto

Consumed in Ireland  
lb. 1,500,000, at  
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• On the coasts  
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will leave,

Bohea	-	lb.	12
Congou	-	-	6
Souchong	-	-	-
Singlo	-	-	5
Flyson	-	-	-

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Nt, lb. 25

which at 13,000,000 per Annum  
considerable part should not ar



**VOL. II.**

Danes	-	-	3	
Dutch	-	-	4	
French	-	-	1	
Imperial		-		
Hungarian		-		
Tuscan	-	-		
Portugueze		-		
American	-	-	1	
Prussian		-		
Spanish	-	-		
Genoese		-		
Total Foreign	-		13	b.
English private trade included.			18	
			31	b.

\* Most of

† Part of



Congou	83,701,23
Souchong	13,633,01
Singlo	51,212,76
Hyson	19,865,21

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lb. 216,273,68  
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\* This sum or thereabout must  
turers of factitious Teas, as the de

